manufacture of some of the telecommunication equipment which were earlier reserved for public sector.

(4) Press Note on new computer policy issued in November, 1984.

(5) Integrated policy measures announced in March, 1985.

(6) Software development policy of December, 1986.

Simultaneously, fiscal as well as import/export poilcies had evolved resulting in the healthy growth of electronics industry on the expected lines.

These policy initiatves covering a wide area have been followed up. Various elements of the policy relating to the objectives mentioned earlier are continuously being evolved and evaluated, and modifications or changes are incorporated as and when necessary. Thus, some thrust areas have been identified such as Microelectronics, software development, materials and component production, exports of both software and hardware, and manpower development, in which specific initiatives continue to be taken.

As part of the efforts of the Government in its proclaimed policy to improve the condition of the people especially in the rural areas, specific electronics applications areas would receive more attention. These include: electronics application in agriculture to be promoted in different ways including efforts of the five Electronics Research and Development Centres; electronics for food processing and water managemnet; employment generation in rural areas through schemes for assembly of electronic equipments by co-operatives and other institutions; electronic applications for the aid of the handicapped and manpower programmes for building up technician training skills in rural areas through ITIs etc.

(c) As a result of the initiatives so far taken, the electronics industry has achieved a cumulative annual average growth of 35 per cent in the last 5 years. Applications of electronics in key sectors, particularly process control and industrial equipment have increased. Computers have started being used in all relevant and appropriate sectors, including business, education and offices, for improving productivity while ensuring that employment needs are fully taken note of. R&D electronics application base, as well as infrastructure for standardisation, testing and quality control has been built up. The Government will endeavour to keep up the dynamism already displayed by taking appropriate steps to identify the shifts in demand and technology, etc. and generate efforts in the directions which will sustain the production rate, productivity, increased employment, self-reliance etc. in this sector.

Review of the New Education Policy

*4. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had ordered total review of the New Education Policy and its implementation;

(b) if so, whether the review has since been completed; and

(c) what are the decision with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M. G. K. MENON). (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, the Government have decided to undertake a review of the New Education Policy. The modalities for this are beng worked out.